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10/551,706	07/24/2006	Jeffrey Wilson	DYOUP0302US	3899

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EXAMINER	
ABDALLA, KHALID M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
4173	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/551,706	WILSON, JEFFREY	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	KHALID ABDALLA	4173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *03 October 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *21-38* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *21-38* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *07/24/2006*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 21-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 21 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for being confusing because it lacks a transitional phrases such as "comprising ".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 21-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raniere et al (6,373,936),hereinafter referred to as Raniere et al in view of Ram et al (6,625,258 B1), hereinafter referred to as Ram et al.

Regarding claim 21, Raniere et al discloses a telecommunications services apparatus for use with a mobile telephone network (a voice/ data teleconferencing system see (col.2 lines 19-24), the apparatus being operable to store for a first user

addresses representing members of at least one group of users (multiple user) see (col: 4 lines51-53 and col: 5 lines 1-20), said addresses being configurable by the first user, wherein the first user may send a text message to a service address corresponding to one of the at least one group of users (multiple users enter voice modes) (col.4 line 51 - 53 and col.5 line 1-20).

Raniere et al does not explicitly disclose that the apparatus is thereby operable to replicate the text message to the members of that group users and wherein the first user may make a voice call to the same service address, the apparatus being thereby operable to initiate an audio conference with the members of that group of users. However Ram et al teaches the apparatus (VAS(virtual assistant system)see (col:3 lines 10-32) being thereby operable to replicate (also provides replication see col:9 lines 3-5 and FIG.3) the text message to the members of that group users and wherein the first user may make a voice call to the same service address, the apparatus being thereby operable to initiate an audio conference (other types of services in which calls are initiated (see col:3 lines 10-32) with the members of that group of users. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to use the apparatus of Ram et al with a mobile telephone network of Raniere et al in order to duplicate messages .

Regarding claim 22 note that Raniere et al discloses apparatus wherein the service address for the or each respective group of users comprises a short code.(voice mode portion of the conference for example) See (col.5 lines 40-55) and (col: 6 lines 25-31). .

Regarding claim 23, note that Raniere et al discloses apparatus, wherein a Respective service address determines a particular group of users (users are Interconnected via the central SW for example) (col.5 lines 24-55). Also note Ram et al teaches each user to have personal group definitions (Ram et al col.12 lines 18-30).

Regarding claim 24 note Raniere et al discloses Apparatus including a database storing addresses (locally stored copy of the data object selected) see col:5 lines 29-32) of the or each group of users (multiple user) see (col:4 lines51-53 and col:5 lines 1-20). Also note that Ram et al teaches the calling line identity(communication for the subscriber are received via a single telephone number) see (col:5 lines 6-8) .

Regarding claim 25, note Raniere et al discloses an apparatus including an address configuring means(shared data) see (col:4 lines 34-38) responsive to receipt of an identifier (mode selector) see col:2 lines 32-40) in a text message to manage the addresses of a respective group of users(multiple user) see (col:4 lines51-53 and col:5 lines 1-20) the text message including one or more addresses of the respective group of users .

Regarding claim 26 note Raniere et al discloses an apparatus wherein the address configuring means(shared data object) see (col: 4 lines 34-38) is also responsive to the presence of the same or a different identifier (mode selector) see

(col:2 lines 32-40) . Also note that Ram et al teaches the identifier as a delimiter between the addresses (find-me/follow-me service) see (col: 14 lines 20-27).

Regarding claim 27 note Raniere et al discloses an apparatus wherein the or each identifier (mode selector) see (col:2 lines 32-40) is a specific key character (the mode selector is responsive to a selector control signal). See (Col.2 lines 36-38) .

Regarding claim 28 note Raniere et al discloses Apparatus including means for sending a text message to a selected one of the groups of users (multiple user) see (col:4 lines51-53 and col:5 lines 1-20) .
Also note that Ram et al teaches a text message inviting each user in the group to join an audio conference the text message(VAS routes communication and messages) see (col:5 lines 8-14).

Regarding claim 29, Raniere et al discloses a telecommunications services method for a mobile telephone network((a voice/ data teleconferencing system) see (col.2 lines 19-24), the method involving storing for a first user addresses representing members of at least one group of users, said addresses being configurable by the first user, (i) wherein the first user. See (col.2 lines 26-32) and (col.4 line 51 -53 and col.5 line 1-18). may send a text message to a service address corresponding to one of the at least one group of users, the text message being thereby replicated to the members of that group

of users, and/or (ii) wherein the first user may make to a service address (data object for example) (col.4 line 51 -65).

Raniere et al does not explicitly disclose the first user may make a voice call to a service address corresponding to one of the at least one group of users, an audio conference thereby being initiated with the members

Ram et al teaches corresponding to one of the at least one group of users, an audio conference thereby being initiated (VAS (virtual assistant system) supports/provides call services) see (col: 3 lines 10-32) with the members of that group of users. thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the apparatus of Raniere et al and couple to Ram et al in order to start audio conferencing the subscribers .

Regarding claim 30, note Raniere et al discloses a method wherein the service address for the or each respective group of users (multiple users) see (col: 4 lines 51-53 and col: 5 lines 1-20).comprises a short code (voice mode portion) see (col: 5 lines 43-55).

Regarding claim 31 note Raniere et al discloses a method wherein a respective service address determines a particular group of users (multiple users) see (col:4 lines 51-53 and col:5 lines 1-20).

Also note that Ram et al teaches each individual first user, permitting each first user to have personal group definitions(reach list -find-me/follow -me service , plurality of entries) see (col:14 lines 20-27).

Regarding claim 32 note Raniere et al discloses A method including storing addresses (locally stored copy of data) see (col:5 lines 29-32) of the or each group of users in a database. wherein the calling line identity of the first user is detected and the particular group of users (multiple user) sees (col: 4 lines51-53 and col:5 lines 1-20) . Also note that Ram et al teaches the basis of the service address and the detected calling line identity (communication for the subscriber is received via a single telephone number) see (col: 5 lines 6-8).

Regarding claim 33 note Raniere et al discloses method including an address configuring (shared data) see (col: 4 lines 34-38) and (col: 5 lines 1-14) step responsive to receipt of an identifier (mode selector) see col: 2 lines 32-40) in a text message to manage the addresses of a respective group of users the text message including one or more address of the respective group of users.

Regarding claim 34; note Raniere et al discloses a method wherein the address configuring (shared data object) see (col: 4 lines 34-38) step is also responsive to the presence of the same or a different identifier (mode selector) see (col: 2 lines 32-40).

Also note that Ram et al teaches the identifier as a delimiter between the addresses (find-me/follow-me service) see (col: 14 lines 20-27).

Regarding claim 35 note Raniere et al discloses a method wherein the or each identifier (mode selector) see (col: 2 lines 32-40) is a specific key character. (a selector control signal) see col: 2 lines 36-38).

Regarding claims 36 note Raniere et al discloses a method including sending a text message to a selected one of the groups of users ((multiple user) see (col: 4 lines51-53 and col: 5 lines 1-20) .
Also note that Ram et al teaches a text message inviting each user in the group to join an audio conference the text message(VAS routes communication and messages) see (col:5 lines 8-14).

Regarding claim 37 note Raniere et al discloses a computer program(dynamic data exchange) for implementing a method according claim29 .see (col: 5 lines 12-17 and col: 6 lines 32-39).

Regarding claim 38 note Raniere et al discloses a computer program(dynamic data exchange) see (col: 5 lines 12-17 and col: 6 lines 32-39).
Also note that Ram et al teaches a storage medium storing (multimedia storage device 424) see (col: 10 lines 12-14) and FIG 4A.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Raniere et al (5,844,979), is cited to show various components of telecommunication services and apparatus methods.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KHALID ABDALLA whose telephone number is (571)270-7526. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY THROUGH EVERY OTHER FRIDAY 7 AM TO 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JINHEE LEE can be reached on 571-272-1977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jinhee J Lee/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4173

/K. A./